

Claims

1 A vehicle repair system for a vehicle under repair, said system including a vehicle repair centre entering the details of said vehicle into the system database, said details including a listing of the necessary repairs and/or any vehicle parts required and/or labour time required and/or cost estimation, and characterised in that from commencement of the repair until completion, the database can be updated as the repair progresses to provide an accurate estimation of the projected completion date for the vehicle repair and said information system is provided on a designated site which is selectively accessible from a remote location by the owner or operator of the vehicle.

2 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the owner or operator of said vehicle is allocated a security code which allows access to information for the particular vehicle under repair.

3 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the owner or operator of a group of vehicles which subscribes to the system is provided with a security code which allows access to repair information for any of the said group of vehicles under repair at that time.

4. A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the vehicle owner or operator can access the system as often as desired to maintain a check on the progress of the vehicle repair.

5 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the vehicle requiring repair is transported to the closest available repair location and the vehicle operator can access the system regardless of the particular location of the vehicle.

6 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the system indicates the situation of a vehicle prior to the repair work starting via a vehicle recovery system.

7 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the system includes an onward shipment tracking system so that any cargo which was being carried by the vehicle at the time of the repair being required and is transported onwardly, can be tracked by the vehicle owner or operator via the system to identify the location and status of the cargo thereafter until delivered.

8 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the system includes information relating to the vehicle type and the vehicle owner or operator can request via the system that the system operator arranges the provision of an equivalent vehicle for the duration of the repair.

9 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the system includes visual images of the vehicle prior to and/or during repair.

10 A vehicle repair system according to claim 9 characterised in that prior to the repair being authorised said visual images can be relayed via the system to the vehicle owner or operator and any other authorised parties.

11. A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that the site on which the system is provided is an internet site which can be accessed by the vehicle owner or operator.

12 A vehicle repair system according to claim 11 characterised in that the internet site has a first level which can be accessed by any

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user and which gives general information about the system, and a second, secure, level which is only accessible by the owners or operators of vehicles who subscribe to the system.

13 A vehicle repair system according to claim 12 characterised in that the secure level of the internet site is only accessible by subscribers and specific details of a vehicle repair can only be accessed by the owner or operator of the vehicle by use of a security code allocated for that particular vehicle repair.

14 A vehicle repair system according to claim 1 characterised in that in addition to or instead of a vehicle repair the system is used to provide an indication of the progress of the building of a vehicle or part of a vehicle.